THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh proposes to construct a dam across Palar river. According to Andhra Pradesh, construction of dam is to utilize the water within its share and interest of Tamil Nadu or any other State is not affected. According to Tamil Nadu interest of Tamil Nadu is affected with construction of dam.

(b) The Government of Tamil Nadu has requested the Government of India on 1.2.2006 for intervention and appropriate action in accordance with law and restrain the State of Andhra Pradesh from proceeding further in the matter.

(c) The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has taken up the issue with the Government of Andhra Pradesh and also with Government of India. No resolution was passed in the House of Tamil Nadu. However, the matter was discussed in the House of the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

(d) State of Tamil Nadu has already filed an original suit before Supreme Court of India on 10.02.2006 and the matter is *sub-judiced*.

Special status to Rajasthan under Rapid Irrigation Benefit Programme

†4088. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to grant a special status to Rajasthan on the lines of North Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh under the Rapid Irrigation Benefit Programme keeping in view the conditions of the State such as two third of its area being the parts of the Thar Desert and having drought prone areas, long international border with Pakistan and facing natural disasters; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard, indicating the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.